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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: <u>AEMR ASEC CASC KFLO MARR PREL PINR AMGT CD</u> SUBJECT: TFKV01: KOSOVO TASK FORCE SITUATION REPORT NO. 17

POLICE PRESENCE INCREASED AT EMBASSY BELGRADE

11. (SBU) Embassy Belgrade reports Serbian authorities deployed two armored vehicles and 60 riot police to the Chancery, following the USG's request for additional protective measures. Post could reopen as early as February 26. (Kosovo TF/Embassy Belgrade telcon and e-mail)

NORTH KOSOVO PROTESTS DIMINISH

12. (SBU) U.S. Office Pristina reports KFOR and UNMIK removed two roadblocks placed by demonstrators and reasserted control over border crossings. UN officials note Serbia may remove its customs officers from the border February 26. (Kosovo TF/U.S. Office Pristina telcon, Kosovo TF/Embassy Belgrade telcon and e-mail)

MEDVEDEV TO ARRIVE IN BELGRADE FEBRUARY 25

13. (SBU) The Serbian Government announced the Russian Deputy Prime Minister will meet with PM Kostunica and

others. (Kosovo TF/Embassy Belgrade telcon and e-mail)

SOME SERB PARTICIPATION IN KOSOVO POLICE SERVICE

14. (SBU) U.S. Office Pristina reports ethnic Serb and Albanian police officers are working together in the southern Serb enclaves. Serb members of the Kosovo Police Service in the north have stopped cooperating with their ethnic Albanian counterparts. (Kosovo TF/U.S. Office Pristina e-mail)

SERBS UNREPENTANT ON ANTI-U.S. VIOLENCE

- ¶5. (SBU) Novosti, Serbia's largest pro-government daily, justified the burning of Embassy Belgrade, saying it was the result of "Americanism" and "contemporary fascism." PM Kostunica called for the United States to rescind recognition of Kosovo independence and for the UN Security Council to reconfirm Resolution 1244. (Kosovo TF/Embassy Belgrade e-mail)
- $\underline{\P}6.$ (U) Minimize considered. RICE